

News Release

UMC to host sustainability seminar on April 19

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Wednesday, April 13, 2005

On Tuesday, April 19, the University of Minnesota, Crookston will host the next in a series of sustainability seminars from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Youngquist Auditorium on the UMC campus. The seminar entitled, A local look at sustainability: The campus as experimental vessel, will feature Dr. Jim Perry, Horace T. Morse Distinguished University Professor and Head of the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. He serves as associate editor of the Journal of Natural Resources and Life Science Education. Perry has received numerous awards including the CISW Award for the Interdisciplinary Teaching of Writing, Elected Fellow, American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, and was a recipient of the Morse-U of MN Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education and is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, University of Minnesota.

“Dr. Perry is not only a distinguished research scientist and University administrator but is also a highly effective and stimulating teacher,” notes Dan Svedarsky of UMC. “We are fortunate to have someone of his credentials and passion for sustainability share their worldwide perspectives and assist the UMC campus in our sustainability journey.”

Perry will examine four concepts: accountability, transparency, defensibility, and collaboration. These four concepts serve as signposts for today's managers and decision makers; they are a mantra repeated over and over among funding agents, legislators, and administrators. Those concepts guide decision making at the international scale, national, state, and local scales. Universities are commissioned to be local, national and global leaders in the roles they fill in society. As such, it is imperative that we, as members of the university community be able to demonstrate that we are sensitive to and are advancing those four concepts. Understanding the physical landscape of the campus and using that physical landscape in teaching, demonstration, and research can achieve that. By implementing and teaching campus sustainability, we can demonstrate better stewardship of resources, and can link directly to advancing global agendas of sustainability and stewardship.

The Twin Cities' campus has made significant progress toward campus sustainability. Many faculty, staff, and students have been, and continue to be involved. Perry will suggest that campus sustainability can, and should be viewed in a global context. Within that global context, he will summarize a decade-long personal journey toward understanding and working with campus sustainability, then step back and ask: What made that more successful? What constrained us? What might such a program look like at Crookston? What might make a Crookston attempt at campus sustainability successful?

This seminar is the fifth in the Sustainability Series organized by Brent Sorenson, Dan Svedarsky, and Linda Kingery as part of a feasibility study looking into the establishment of a Center of Sustainable Development at the Crookston Campus. The public is cordially invited to attend. For more information contact Dan Svedarsky at 218-281-8129.

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